Green revolution

*17. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first green revolution in the present context is not effective;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to start second green revolution;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government has identified certain areas/ States for the second green revolution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with the funds allocated for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The Green Revolution experienced in India paid rich dividends and the country became self-sufficient in foodgrains. However, during the past decade, the agricultural growth rate showed a declining trend with production and productivity remaining almost stagnant. To deal with this situation, improvement of agricultural production and productivity and enhancement of the income of the farmers are some of the major thrust areas identified by the Government for focused and concerted action. In order to achieve these objectives, the National Policy for Farmers 2007, incorporating the key recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, has been approved by the Government. In addition, a number of programmes/schemes are already under implementation. "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana", which aims to achieve 4% annual growth in agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan period by ensuring a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors with an objective, *Inter-alia*, to incentivise States to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors has been launched and is under implementation with an outlay of Rs.25,000 crore for the Eleventh Plan Period. Further, the "National Food Security Mission" is also being implemented to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses, with an outlay of Rs.4882.48 crore for the Eleventh Plan. It is targeted that the foodgrain production shall be increased by 20 million tonnes including National horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation and National Bamboo Mission have also been launched by the Government. A comprehensive credit package was also announced by the Government in June 2004 which, *Inter-alia*, aimed to enhance flow of credit to agriculture sector and debt restructuring of outstanding loans for farmers in distress and in arrears. Further, the scheme of debt waiver and debt relief has been announced in the Union Budget for 2008–09 in order to address the problems faced by the farmers due to indebtedness and to enable them to access fresh institutional credit. For the year 2008-09, the Plan outlay for Agriculture and Allied Sectors including Agricultural Research is Rs.12865 crore which is higher by about 60% compared to that for 2007–08. All these schemes and programmes are expected to substantially increase the growth rate of agriculture sector and improve the income levels of the farmers.